

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Myrrha octodecimguttata (L.) (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae), a newly recorded host of *Dinocampus coccinellae* (Schrank) (Hymenoptera: Braconidae).—*Dinocampus coccinellae* (Schrank) is a cosmopolitan parasitoid of diverse ladybirds of the subfamily Coccinellidae (Ceryngier & Hodek, 1996). We recently obtained a specimen of *D. coccinellae* from an individual of *Myrrha octodecimguttata* (L.), the 18-spot ladybird. The parasitoid was a female, as is typical for individuals of this parthenogenetic species. The ladybird was one of several *M. octodecimguttata* collected, along with a number of other species, at Esher Common, Surrey, England in August 1998. At this site *M. octodecimguttata* is common on *Pinus sylvestris* L., Scots pine. The ladybirds were overwintered in an insectary at ambient outdoor temperature and, both before and after overwintering, were maintained primarily on a diet of artificial ladybird food (Henderson & Albrecht, 1988; Majerus & Kearns, 1989). The parasitoid larva emerged from the ladybird at some point after the overwintering period, forming its cocoon underneath the host, as is typical for this species. Emergence of the adult was successful.

Ceryngier & Hodek (1996) do not include *M. octodecimguttata* in their comprehensive world list of *D. coccinellae* hosts. Furthermore, Majerus (1997) did not detect this parasitoid in two samples of British *M. octodecimguttata* comprising 22 and 35 individuals. In view of Majerus' data, it seems that *M. octodecimguttata* is a rare host for *D. coccinellae*, although successful parasitism of this ladybird species can sometimes take place.

The preserved parasitoid, cocoon and ladybird host have been deposited with the National Museums of Scotland.—JOHN J. SLOGGETT & MICHAEL E. N. MAJERUS, Department of Genetics, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EH, UK. (Current address of JJS: Institute of Ecology, Friedrich Schiller University, Dornburger Straße 159, D-07743 Jena, Germany.)

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UK DIPTERISTS FORUM ANNUAL MEETING & SUPPER
Cardiff, 25–26 November 2000

This year the Annual Meeting of the UK Dipterists Forum will be returning to the National Museum & Gallery of Wales in Cardiff, on the weekend of 25–26 November 2000. As in the very successful 1998 meeting, this will be a residential weekend comprising presentations, exhibition, AGM and informal meetings on the Saturday, followed by workshops and access to the collections on the Sunday. There will be a Dipterists Supper on the Saturday evening. Further details will be announced in the summer issue of the *Dipterists Bulletin*; enquiries in the meantime to be addressed to either Mike Wilson at the museum (Tel: 029 20573263; e-mail: mike.wilson@nmgw.ac.uk) or the local organiser, David Clements (Tel: 029 20307878; e-mail: david.clements1@tesco.net).